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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
OF  
DANIEL C. COLESWORTHY.

BY JOHN WARD DEAN.

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1877

Reprinted from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register for July, 1893.

W. W. CLAPP & SON  
205 High Street, Boston.

PRINTED BY DAVID CLAPP & SON  
205 High Street, Boston.

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## DANIEL C. COLESWORTHY.

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MR. DANIEL CLEMENT COLESWORTHY died at his residence in Chestnut Street, Chelsea, Mass., April 1, 1893, in his 83d year. He was the second son of Daniel Pecker and Anna (Collins) Colesworthy, and was born at Portland, Me., July 14, 1810. An obituary of his father is printed in the REGISTER, vol. 6, pp. 389-90, and his pedigree in vol. 15 of this work, page 330. He learned the trade of a printer of Arthur Shirley, who printed the *Christian Mirror*, a religious newspaper still published in Portland. Soon after attaining his majority he opened a printing office in Middle street, and began the publication of a juvenile weekly called the *Sabbath School Instructor*. He published other newspapers, the best known of which was the *Portland Tribune*, a weekly literary paper which he founded in 1841. He edited and published it for four years, and then sold it to others who continued the publication. About this time he opened a bookstore in Exchange street, which was afterwards removed to the basement of the Mariner's Church in Fore street. In 1850 he removed to Boston, Mass., and opened a bookstore in Cornhill, where he continued to carry on the bookselling business till his death. He lived to be the oldest bookseller in Boston. His bookstore was frequented by many men of note. He counted among his personal friends Charles Sumner, Henry W. Longfellow, William Lloyd Garrison, Neal Dow, Nathaniel P. Banks, Elias Nason, John Pierpont, Elizabeth Oakes Smith, George Henry Preble, Wendell Phillips and John Neal.

He began early to write in verse and prose, and continued to employ his leisure in literary composition to the end of his days. He was a frequent contributor to literary and religious newspapers, and some articles were sent to editors just before his death,

and were printed after he died. He was a voluminous writer and published many books. Many of his shorter poems had a wide circulation in the newspapers, and some found their way into hymn books and school readers, often anonymously. Some have been attributed to other well known authors. This was the case with "Little words in kindness spoken," and "Never say fail." His poem "Don't kill the birds" is said to have had "great influence in arresting the slaughter of those innocents by inculcating in the minds of children a sentiment of mercy towards them."

Among his published works may be named "The Old Bureau and other Tales"; "Sabbath School Hymns"; "Chronicles of Casco Bay"; "A Group of Children"; "A Day in the Woods"; "School is Out," and "John Tileston's School." In Duyckinck's *Cyclopedia of American Literature* (ed. 1875, vol. 2, page 511), this estimate of him as a writer is found: "His writings in prose and verse are adapted to the people, and are generally on topics of familiar domestic interest. His tales, of which he composed many, illustrate the moralities of common life somewhat in the school of Franklin; while his poems, written with ease and simplicity, embrace the ever-enduring themes of the affections."

Mr. Colesworthy married, at Portland, Miss Mary Jane, daughter of John and Prudence (Richardson) Bowers, who was born in Cambridge, Mass., Sept. 26, 1812, and died at Chelsea, May 27, 1874. Their children were: 1, Daniel Clement; 2, Mary Jane; 3, Charles Jenkins; 4, Ellen Maria, m. Charles W. Cochrane; 5, George Edward; 6, Harriet Ann, m. Thomas L. Hallworth; 7, Alice Elizabeth, m. Frank E. Woodward; 8, William Gibson. All the children are living except the oldest, Daniel C., who died April 1, 1867.

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